GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1136
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
PRODUCTION OF BIO-FUEL
Singh Shri Lakshman

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any target for the Xth Plan for production of Bio-fuels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to promote Biofuels as an alternative fuel for petrol and diesel?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) and (b) The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which recommended in 2004 that a National Mission on Bio-diesel with a special focus on the plantation of Jatropha curcas may be launched. Ministry of Rural Development, as the nodal Ministry, has got a Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared. The DPR needs to be processed further for approval of the Planning Commission and the Government, before the project gets taken up for implementation.

(c) The Government is implementing a 5% ethanol-blended petrol programme in notified sugar producing states/adjoining states and union territories. According to the parameters of the programme, w.e.f. 27.10.2004, if the price at which ethanol is offered for the programme is comparable to the price of ethanol for alternative uses, and is comparable to the delivery price of petrol at the notified locations, and if the supply of ethanol can be maintained at such prices, supply of 5% ethanol-blended-petrol in notified areas is mandatory. Under instructions from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to the Oil Marketing Companies in the public sector, field trials using bio-diesel and diesel blend in buses are in progress in collaboration with Haryana Roadways and the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST), Mumbai. Field trials and engine tests on locomotives are also in progress.